

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date of Decision:	24 September 2013
Decision Title:	Grants to Voluntary Organisations and Other Bodies
Decision Reference:	5144
Report From:	Director of Policy and Governance - Corporate Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to consider four applications received for financial assistance from the Policy and Resources budget whose details are outlined in Appendix 2 to this report.
- 1.2 There are also four payments made from this budget for:
- Use of the Great Hall by voluntary organisations- £10,500
 - UK Youth Parliament- £7,500
 - Hampshire Music Service- Up to £5,000
 - Evelyn Mace Trust- £3,700

These payments are made on an annual basis for use of the Great Hall, UK Youth Parliament and Hampshire Music Service.

Payments to Evelyn Mace Trust are due to cease in 2014/15.

In future years, these payments will be included as a line in the P&R budget and be incorporated into mainstream budgets.

2. Budget Position

- 2.1 The balance available for allocation from the 2013/14 grant budget at 24 September 2013 is £216,850, after grants approved at the last decision day, commitments made in previous years and sums earmarked for specific purposes.

3. Criteria of grant

- 3.1 A copy of the criteria used for considering grants from this Policy and Resources grants budget is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4. Recommendations:

1. That the grants totalling £3,362, recommended as outlined in Appendix 2 of this report be approved.

Agenda Item 2

2. To agree £10,000 as year two of the three year funding agreement for Kingston University
3. To confirm the payments detailed in paragraph 1.2
4. That in relation to the the Mid Hants Railway Ltd grant request, the following recommendations be approved:
 - i. That a grant of £75,000, in two parts (£50,000 October 2013 and £25,000 April 2014) be approved subject to the Director of Corporate Resources being satisfied with the financial viability of the Mid Hants Railway Ltd.
 - ii. That the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment liaises with the Mid Hants Railway on the work proposed for the Boynesroad Bridge, Four Marks.
 - iii. That the County Council reviews with the Mid Hants Railway Line the current arrangements for the maintenance of bridges along the Watercress Line

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	No
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D – Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

Application form received from organisations

Director of Policy and Governance - Corporate Services

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1 The application procedure includes equalities monitoring information as agreed as part of the corporate review of grants programmes and procedures. Further information can be found on individual requests.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The County Council has an obligation under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all decisions it makes on the prevention of crime. The proposals in this report aim to improve the wellbeing of Hampshire residents and reduce the risk of crime occurring.

FUNDING CRITERIA FOR THE POLICY AND RESOURCES GRANTS

The following criteria should be taken into consideration when preparing a submission for funding. They are intended as guidelines and not prescriptive rules

1. Assistance will be considered only in response to direct applications from properly constituted organisations seeking assistance. You must show in your application that your organisation is properly and legally organised and has its own bank account.
2. Where appropriate, applications will be referred to the relevant service department (e.g. Adult Services, Culture, Communities and Business Services, Children's Services, etc.) for consideration.
3. Preference will be given to applications for specific projects or activities rather than general running costs of organisations. These grants are not intended to replace shortfalls in service delivery budgets or replace funding for other support you may be able to obtain, or that you have obtained from us in the past.
4. Grants will not usually be made in respect of applications from the following:-
 - District or Parish Councils
 - Government Institutions
 - Schools
 - Overseas and out of County organisations which have no direct Hampshire involvement
 - Branches or organisations assisted centrally with a sum from the County Council
 - Bodies requesting funds for onward distribution to other charities e.g. mayoral appeals, carnivals, fetes, or for their own fundraising events.
5. Applications will not be accepted from political parties or groups affiliated with a political party or from lobbying/campaigning organisations.
6. Applications will only be considered from faith groups who can demonstrate their facilities are open and used by the local community other than for church related activities and then only for works in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act.
7. Requests may be considered from County wide groups (e.g. Guides, Scouts, Hampshire County Youth Orchestra) for specific trips, e.g. for an international jamboree or cultural tour. Individual requests will not usually be considered.
8. Where possible self-help within organisations should be encouraged and to this end, grants are normally a percentage of the sum required to complete the project.
9. As a general rule, grants in excess of £5,000 will not be awarded.
10. In general only award grants to projects which are taking place in the same year as application for funds

SOUTH EAST RESERVE FORCES AND CADETS, ALDERSHOT (CG00003706)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Each year, South East Reserve Forces Cadets Association (SERFCA) funds and organises the Awards Ceremony, to be held in Winchester on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant, at which Meritorious Service and other Awards are presented and Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets appointed. The introduction, last year, of the award of the, British Empire Medal, added to the investiture of a number of Deputy-Lieutenants, nearly doubled the numbers normally attending the ceremony. As a result, increased the cost of the event. Due to the non-availability of the Great Hall in 2013, SERFCA is applying to use the Winchester Guildhall for the Awards Ceremony on 30 September 2013. It is anticipated that there will also be more BEM recipients and guests as there will have been two Queen's Honours list published, compared with last year's one. The application for funding is for the extra cost incurred as a result of the hire of the Guildhall and the costs of hosting an anticipated 15 BEM recipients and 3 guests each, and a small number of new Deputy Lieutenants with one guest each. It is anticipated that 150 people will be attending.

Total Expenditure: £4,462 (£417-venue hire, £3,000-food/drink, £500-photography and PR, £120- PA system, £350- printing and postage, £75- flowers.

Total Income: £3, 600

Shortfall: £862

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Leader of the Council

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£862

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

None

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

The event is a Hampshire wide awards ceremony and there is no local Member

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/ EQUALITY INFORMATION

The County Council has the power under section 1 of the Localism Act 2013 to anything that individuals generally may do. This includes the power to award grants

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Policy and Governance- Corporate Services: The Awards Ceremony, held on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant is a well received event and this year the numbers attending is expected to increase hence increasing the cost. It is therefore recommended a grant be awarded.

RECOMMENDATION

£862

**WESSEX CHILDRENS HOSPICE, NAOMI HOUSE, SUTTON SCOTNEY
(CG00003406)**

PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT

The funding request is towards the costs of hosting a Royal Visit. The Royal Highness, the Duchess of Cambridge visited Naomi House, Sutton Scotney during Children's Hospice Week earlier this year. Whilst there, she visited the hydrotherapy pool, children's bedrooms and the gardens and had tea with brothers and sisters of children cared for at the hospice and listened to a live performance of 'Free' a song written by a Naomi House sibling.

Total Expenditure: £6,000 (£2,500- marquee, £1,000-toilets, £2,000- catering, £500- flowers/entertainment)

Total Income: £1,000 (own funds); £2,500 (community fundraising)

Shortfall: £2,500

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Leader of the Council

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£2,500

**GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND
CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS**

2011- this budget- £5,000- garden restoration

2010- Children's Services Integrated Grant- £10,000- sibling support service

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Porter is in support of the application.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/ EQUALITY INFORMATION

This organisation is a registered charity and is therefore eligible for a grant under S137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services: In June, it was previously agreed to award up to £2,500 towards the royal visit, subject to match funding from Winchester City Council. The applicant has advised that the City Council is not in a position to match fund. The Hospice has offered to use its own funds and it is therefore recommended the grant be awarded

RECOMMENDATION

£2,500

KINGSTON UNIVERSITY (CG CG00003662)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

In June last year the County Council agreed to award £10,000 p.a. over three years to Kingston University's (Kingston-upon-Thames) "Reading Force" project. The project aims to promote communication within and between service families and their communities by creating reading groups in the Aldershot area. Service families will share and discuss books, both as individuals and collectively. The funding will pay towards the cost of an administrator, publicity materials, books, writing materials, stationary, conferences, data and despatch

Total Expenditure: £91,000 (£11,000- design and printing of leaflets and sticker sheets, £34,000- staffing, £7,000-website, £10,000- database and despatch, £4,000- books, £22,000- admin/ contingency, £3,000- conference/ PR events)

Total Income: £81,000 (£80,000 MOD, £1,000- own funds)

Shortfall: £10,000

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Leader of the Council

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£10,000 (year 2 of the 3 year agreement)

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

This budget- 2011- £5,000- Reading Force 2011.

2012/13- 3 year grant of £10,000 per annum

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Rust where this project is operating in Aldershot is in full support

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/ EQUALITY INFORMATION

This is a voluntary organisation and is therefore eligible for a grant under S137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Children's Services: This project is targeting a key vulnerable group and support to services families is welcomed. The proposal has clearly evidenced excellent engagement with Hampshire families as part of the pilot project and significantly benefited service families over the last year. Children's Services would support this ongoing engagement and would encourage the project to work with the department to further evidence the outcomes achieved.

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services: This grant was agreed in June 2012 for three years, it is detailed here for the second year of funding as all grants are agreed on a year by year basis.

RECOMMENDATION

£10,000

MID HANTS RAILWAY, ALRESFORD**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Mid Hants Railway Ltd have made a request for financial support to cover major repair work to Boyneswood Road Bridge, a road over railway bridge in Four Marks, Alton. The bridge requires significant work to the arch bridgework which has suffered major damage over many years. The cost of the repairs is estimated to be around £100,000. Mid Hants Railway Ltd own all of the bridges on the Mid Hants Railway Line, apart from the new pedestrian bridge at Windmill Hill in Alton which is the responsibility of the County Council.

The Mid Hants Railway Watercress Line which is part of the cultural and recreational heritage of Hampshire, is in its 36th year of operation and has during that time received in excess of 4 million visitors, with current annual visitor numbers of around 125,000. The Mid Hants Railway is a not for profit organisation, employs around 50 full and part time staff with 8 apprentices and 450 active volunteers. It is the largest tourist attraction in East Hampshire with a business turnover approaching £2.5m pa. The Railway covers its routine operating costs from ticket income but capital projects are funded through other means.

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Leader of the Council

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£75,000

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

A grant of £4,000 was provided in 2010 towards the appointment of the first group of apprentices employed by the Watercress Line.

A grant of £95,000 was given in 1984 towards the cost of extending the railway line from Alresford to Alton.

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Kemp Gee is in support of this application.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/ EQUALITY INFORMATION

This is a Not for Profit organisation and is therefore eligible for a grant under S137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Chief Executive: A grant to the Mid Hants Railway is supported and it is proposed that, subject to the Director of Corporate Resources being satisfied with the viability of the Mid Hants Railway Ltd, that a request for a grant be approved in two stages: £50,000 in October 2013 and a further £25,000 in April 2014. It is also suggested that the Director

of Economy, Transport and Environment liaises with the Mid Hants Railway Ltd on the work proposed for the bridge.

It is proposed that the County Council in due course review the position in respect of the maintenance of all the bridges along the Mid Hants Railway Line.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a grant of £75,000, in two parts (£50,000 October 2013 and £25,000 April 2014) be approved subject to the Director of Corporate Resources being satisfied with the financial viability of the Mid Hants Railway Ltd.
2. That the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment liaises with the Mid Hants Railway on the work proposed for the Boynesroad Bridge, Four Marks.
3. That the County Council reviews with the Mid Hants Railway Line the current arrangements for the maintenance of bridges along the Watercress Line.